

**VA**U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## National Veterans and Military Families Month

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Yesterday evening, President Donald Trump declared November 2018 the second annual National Veterans and Military Families Month to "... salute the brave and dedicated patriots who have worn the uniform of the United States, and ... celebrate the extraordinary military families whose selfless service and sacrifice make our military the finest in the world."

In 2017, President Trump proclaimed November Veterans and Military Families Month, the first time America celebrated Veterans and military families for the entire month – not just on Veterans Day – in keeping with the President's strong focus on improving care and benefits for our nation's heroes.

The tradition continues again this year, with more than 300 events at VA hospitals, benefits offices and cemeteries across the country, including:

- senior leader visits to VA facilities
- open houses
- town halls
- benefits claims clinics
- volunteer recognitions
- homeless Veteran initiative events
- suicide prevention events
- faith-based community events
- flag planting tributes at national cemeteries

"At VA, Veterans and their families are at the center of everything we do. Veterans and Military Families Month is an opportunity for us to honor the service of these patriots while educating communities about VA benefits and services, and our commitment to customer service improvement," VA Secretary Robert Wilkie said.

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## Veterans and Military Families Month, 2 of 2

To celebrate Veterans and Military Families Month locally, the Providence VA Medical Center will participate in the following events honoring Veterans and their families throughout the month of November:

- Nov. 1 – 5, Vietnam Moving Wall at Ponaganset High School, North Scituate, R.I.
- Nov. 9, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., OSDRI Winter Coat Giveaway for homeless and at-risk Veterans, HPACT Clinic, PVAMC campus, 830 Chalkstone Ave., Providence
- Nov. 10, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., A Forum for Veterans and their Community, Middletown Town Hall, 350 E. Main Rd., Middletown, R.I.
- Nov. 10, 1 p.m. – 10 p.m., 2018 Providence Waterfire Salute to Veterans, Providence, R.I.
- Nov. 17, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Veterans Expo at BCC, Bristol Community College, 777 Elsbree St., Fall River, Mass.

A detailed list of southeastern New England events for Veterans and Military Families Month is available at <https://www.providence.va.gov/calendar.asp>.

“We honor Veterans and their families every day, but November is a time of special emphasis as we participate in Veteran events across Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts,” said Dr. Susan MacKenzie, director of the Providence VA Medical Center. “Come see us and learn about the VA benefits and services you’ve earned through your service and sacrifice.”

This year’s celebration of Veterans and Military Families Month caps an unprecedented period of improvement for VA, as the department has made groundbreaking progress over the last two years in the areas of accountability, transparency and efficiency, while enjoying an important series of legislative successes.

The full list of national events for Veterans and Military Families month is available at <https://www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/veteransmonthcalendar.asp>.

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